



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Maryland Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements and restoration cost-share agreements.

Maryland has nearly 600 thousand acres of non-tidal wetland. Historically, the extent of non-tidal wetland in Maryland was much greater. Some uses of wetlands, such as hunting, trapping, and fishing had little long-term effect. However, other activities in wetlands, such as filling for industrial and residential development and drainage for agriculture and forest management, can have impacts that are difficult, if not impossible, to reverse. The demand for WRP continues to be strong for restoration and enhancement of eastern shore woodlands partially drained for timber production. Considerable wetland restoration on previously drained croplands is being accomplished, with both rental payments and State sponsored easements, through Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Accomplishments

In fiscal year 2001, NRCS obligated \$400,000 for five perpetual easements, one 30-year easement, and three restoration cost-share agreements. The combination of easements and restoration agreements will target wetland protection and restoration efforts on 373 acres of hydraulically impaired woodland and cropland

Program Benefits

Non-tidal wetlands, especially those situated near Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay estuarine areas, provide a host of environmental, socio-economic, aquatic, and wildlife values. They provide critical habitat for migratory waterfowl and shore birds using the coastal fly way.

State contact

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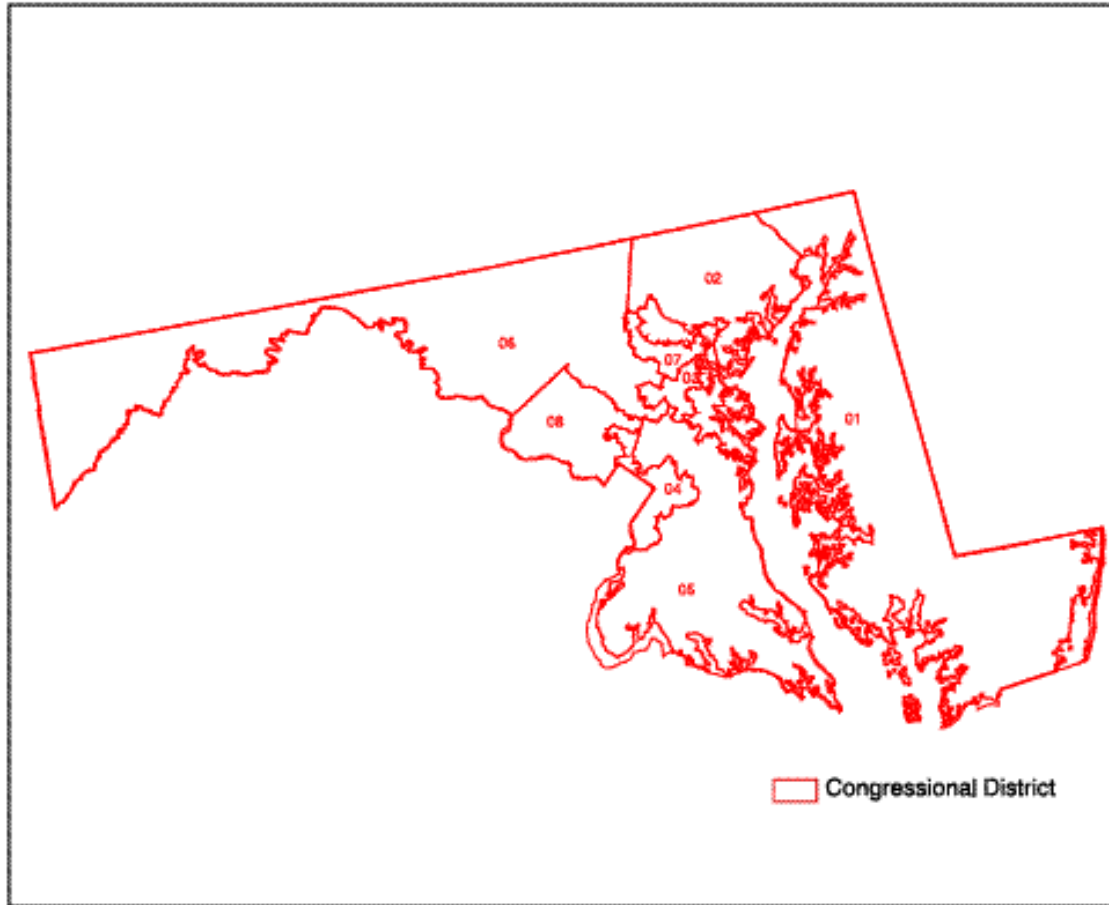
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Photo caption:

NRCS works with landowners to restore wetlands, like this project on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Maryland's wetlands provide habitat for more than 200 bird and wildlife species and improve water quality.



Maryland Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Maryland Dollars, Easements, and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$400,000	9	\$2,426,462	37
State Totals	\$160,459	9	\$2,426,462	37

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